

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 JUNE 1982

Israeli Invasion of Lebanon

Military Situation -- After the Syrians launched a massive attack in the central sector on 24 June, the IDF counterattacked and took control of the Damascus-Beirut highway at Bhamdun, thereby surrounding the Syrians, "terrorists," and Iranian volunteers on three sides and cutting off their sources of supply, according to an IDF announcement broadcast by Jerusalem radio. Citing reports from correspondents in Beirut, the radio reported early on 25 June that the Syrian force near 'Alayh was crumbling and that both Lebanese Christian and Israeli forces had captured Juhur. Voice of Lebanon radio said Israeli forces entered Al-Luwayzah early on 25 June and about 1,000 of their opponents withdrew eastwards during the night. In an announcement over Jerusalem radio's Arabic service, the IDF Command called on the Syrians to profit from a "last chance" to escape under the cover of darkness. The radio later announced that hundreds of Syrian soldiers had fled, abandoning scores of tanks and personnel carriers in the Bhamdun-'Alayh sector. However, a Syrian military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Damascus radio that the Syrian force in 'Alayh had completed an organized transfer to another defensive position on the cease-fire line in order to keep supply lines open. The spokesman also claimed that Syrian air defenses downed two Israeli planes over the Al-Biqa' region early on 25 June. In previous announcements over Damascus radio, the Syrians admitted that the Israelis had reached Bhamdun and had downed two MiG aircraft on 24 June, but expressed pride that despite Israel's use of planes, tanks, artillery and "internationally-banned nerve gas," the IDF had only been able to push the Syrians a short distance backward. However, the IDF spokesman denied that the Syrians shot down two Israeli planes and that the IDF used nerve gas when it captured Bhamdun, according to Jerusalem radio. He also announced that 16 IDF soldiers were killed and 47 were wounded in the fighting with the Syrians from the night of 23 June through 24 June, the radio noted.

Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces foiled an IDF landing attempt on the coast of Beirut during the night and Israeli warplanes launched intensive strikes against the city on the morning of 25 June, according to statements carried by the Voice of Palestine. Voice of Lebanon radio spoke of scores of dead and wounded amid the debris in west Beirut, which was covered by palls of smoke. Israeli airstrikes on Beirut the previous day killed 12 civilians and wounded 60, according to AFP. Another 19 people were killed by a car bomb explosion in Ash-Shiyah, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said. It attributed the blast to "lackeys of Israel and the Phalangists."

Al-Wazzan Resignation, Political Developments -- Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan submitted his resignation to President Ilyas Sarkis on 25 June, the Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

In another development, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt informed AFP that he is quitting the National Salvation Council. Noting that he had been willing to participate in the council on the condition that the United States guarantee the future of the PLO, Junblatt said he decided to withdraw because no guarantee is possible since the United States "proposes the physical and military liquidation of the PLO." Earlier, Junblatt told journalists that the PLO must face reality and leave Beirut, AFP reported. Asserting that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is stalling for time "hoping for a miracle from the Arab world," Junblatt said the PLO is in danger of splitting up and needs a new leadership.

Meanwhile, Lebanese sources cited by Voice of Palestine stated that the National Salvation Council is expected to disband shortly. The sources added that the government may also be forced to submit its resignation because the president and some other officials have completely identified themselves not only with the "U.S. formula" for the Palestinian surrender but also with the formula for the national and Islamic surrender to Israel.

Lebanese Contacts -- Following a 24 June meeting between Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Prime Minister al-Wazzan and U.S. envoy Habib, the Lebanese Cabinet met to discuss military and diplomatic developments, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. It added that Sarkis interrupted the Cabinet session to call Saudi King Fahd and exchange views on developments in Lebanon. The radio said Al-Wazzan announced that the Lebanese Government had summoned Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to come quickly to Beirut from Damascus.

According to Monte Carlo radio, PLO leader 'Arafat held a telephone conversation with Lebanese Front Military Commander Bashir al-Jumayyil. The radio said Al-Jumayyil called on 'Arafat to cooperate with the government and the National Salvation Council.

PLO on Negotiations -- While noting that U.S. envoy Habib is waiting for the Palestinian and Lebanese joint forces to surrender, a Voice of Palestine radio commentary declared they would not lay down their arms but would continue to fight until "we beat official Arab defeatism and rottenness and until we defeat the U.S.-Israeli scenario." However, a PLO spokesman said at a press conference in Beirut that the PLO has responded to questions by the U.S. envoy and is continuing negotiations aimed at restoring peace to west Beirut without a bloodbath, AFP reported. It added that the U.S. questions had been transmitted to the PLO by the National Salvation Council. The spokesman said negotiations would continue after Habib's trip to Israel. According to AFP, the Palestinian news agency WAFA warned that the PLO is not opposed to an honorable settlement but that if such a settlement is not found "words will give way to arms."

A FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH editorial carried by the Voice of Palestine declared that the Palestinians are ready to put aside their secondary differences with the Phalangists and reach an agreement with all Lebanese. The paper said the Palestinians are prepared to make "major concessions" so that a united Lebanese authority can be in a strong position to confront the enemy.

Israeli Policy on Beirut -- Reacting to demands that the IDF stay out of west Beirut, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said no decision has been made on entering the area, HA'ARETZ reported. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio noted that the Israeli ambassador in Washington refused to confirm that the IDF will not enter west Beirut. Political circles in Jerusalem stressed that the IDF will not withdraw from the Beirut area as long as the PLO remains in the western part of the city, the radio reported.

Shamir on French Involvement -- Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in an interview with the Israeli weekly BAMAHAANE that France's sudden support for the PLO is "astonishing" and casts doubt over possible French participation in any multinational force for Lebanon.

French Appeal, Mubarak Message -- French President Francois Mitterrand, in a statement issued in Paris, called on Israel to respect the Lebanese cease-fire, AFP reported. Mitterrand said it is vital and urgent that there should be a disengagement by all forces in Beirut and that the Lebanese Army should be able to interpose itself. He added that the army could be supported, if the government agrees, by a force established under the auspices of the UN Security Council. He noted that through such an arrangement the neutralization of western Beirut could be achieved under UN supervision.

In another development, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent an urgent message to President Ronald Reagan asking him to adopt a firm and urgent stand to secure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, beginning with a lifting of the Israeli siege of Beirut, Cairo radio reported.

DAILY REPORT

South Asia

Vol VIII No 123

25 June 1982

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Yaqub Khan Folds Talks with Cordovez, Mahallati

BK240439 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu GMT 24 Jun 82

[Text] Another round of closed-door indirect discussion on Afghanistan was held in Geneva yesterday between Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the personal representative of the UN secretary general, Cordovez. A spokesman of the Pakistani delegation said that the discussion lasted 2 and 1/2 hours. He added that on the basis of exchanges which had taken place so far, clarifications have been sought. The discussion on substantive aspects of the agenda, especially bilateral relations, has further advanced in the directions already identified. The current round of ongoing discussion is expected to conclude today and the indirect talks will be adjourned until a date to be agreed upon by the two parties through Cordovez.

A spokesman for Cordovez said that the foreign minister of the Karmal administration, Shah Mohammad Dost, also had a meeting with the UN secretary general's personal representative.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan also briefed Iranian permanent representative at the United Nations Dr Mohammad Jafar Mahallati about talks on Afghanistan with Cordovez. A spokesman of the Pakistani delegation said later that during the meeting the Iranian representative asked for clarifications on certain points regarding the talks. Dr Mahallati thanked Sahabzada Yaqub Khan for briefing him about the progress of the talks and expressed the hope that the contact will be maintained. The Pakistani foreign minister assured the Iranian representative that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will also be informed in this regard. The spokesman further said that besides the problem of Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and Iran, bilateral relations between Iran and Pakistan and the situation in the Middle East also came under discussion during the talks.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan apprised Dr Mahallati of the magnitude of shock and indignation of the Pakistani people on the latest barbarous Israeli action in Lebanon. He also said that Pakistan has sent tents, medicine and other relief goods to Lebanon on humanitarian grounds.

CORDOVEZ MEETS WITH Yaqub Khan, Dost 24 JUNE

BK250418 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Jun 82

[Text] Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Foreign Minister of the Karmal regime Shah Mohammad Dost held lengthy closed-door discussions separately with the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Cordovez, in Geneva yesterday. The secretary general's personal representative is addressing a news conference on the talks today. Yesterday the Pakistani foreign minister had two rounds of meetings with Cordovez, lasting about 4 hours. He was scheduled to have another meeting at night after which the indirect talks were to be officially adjourned.

While intensive last-minute discussions were going on to seek a negotiated political settlement of the Afghanistan crisis, a spokesman of the Pakistani delegation said that clarifications were still being sought on various aspects of stands of the two sides. The spokesman said that the talks in Geneva have helped accelerate the process of a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghanistan issue and they will serve as a useful basis for continuing exchanges of views in this regard. He said that the issues relating to a comprehensive settlement and a possible framework on reaching the settlement were emphasized during the talks. The talks also contributed toward the clarification and greater appreciation of specific measures relating to substantive issues on the agenda. These are: the voluntary return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland, the withdrawal of troops, guarantees of non-interference by concerned countries and multilateral guarantees.

The spokesman said the next round of indirect talks is expected to be held in September of this year at the United Nations in New York.

BABRAK KARMAL RETURNS FROM USSR 24 JUNE

LD241716 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Jun 82

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, returned home this afternoon.

In May Babrak Karmal led a high-ranking DRA party and government delegation to the GDR at the invitation of Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED and chairman of the GDR State Council. At the end of his official, friendly visit Karmal went to Moscow for a medical checkup.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the aircraft carrying Babrak Karmal touched down at Kabul International Airport at about 1430. Members of the Politburo and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee, the chairman of the Council of Ministers; the Soviet ambassador and the GDR charge d'affaires in Kabul welcomed the plane.

Karmal then went to the ranks of welcomers who were lining the walls of the airport terminal and greeted members of the Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council and Presidium, and the Council of Ministers, leading members of the NFF Central Council, heads and members of the executive board of the union of creative intelligentsia, heads and members of social organizations, including the DYOA, FSA, DRA trade unions and Peasants Cooperatives Union, generals and officers of the DRA Armed Forces, a number of high-ranking civil servants, ambassadors and charges d'affaires of friendly countries represented in Kabul, and a large number of Kabul citizens.

ZIRAY RETURNS FROM VISIT TO BULGARIA 25 JUNE

LD250702 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0429 GMT 25 Jun 82

[Text] Kabul, June 24, BAKHTAR -- Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front [NFF] returned to Kabul today after participation in the international scientific conference on the occasion of 100th birth anniversary of Georgy Dimitrov, the founder of new Bulgaria, and participation in the 9th congress of Fatherland Front of Bulgaria.

Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by Nur Ahmad Nur, member of Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, some other members of Politburo and secretaries of the Central Committee of the PDPA and the Council of Ministers, some members of the committee of the Central Council of the NFF and ambassador of Bulgaria in Kabul.

WOMENS DELEGATION LEAVES FOR MOSCOW SEMINAR

GF231810 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jun 82

[Text] A delegation consisting of 10 members of the Democratic Women's Organization of Afghanistan left Kabul for Moscow today to participate in a joint seminar organized by the womens association of the Soviet Union. The seminar will discuss the role of women in the initial phase of revolution.

PEASANTS UNION CENTRAL COUNCIL HOLDS PLENUM

LD210606 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0419 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Kabul, June 20, BAKHTAR -- The third plenum of the Central Council of the Union of Peasants Cooperatives of the DRA was held here today.

Dr. Abdul Ghaffar Lakanwal, president of the Peasant's Cooperatives Union of the DRA, read the main report of the Executive Committee of the plenum regarding the forthcoming congress of the cooperatives of the DRA which was unanimously approved by the participants.

The drafts and resolutions of the third plenum of the Central Council of Peasants Cooperatives Union of the DRA regarding the main report of the Executive Committee of the union on the convocation of the congress of the delegates of peasants cooperatives of the DRA, the procedural criteria for the election of the delegates for the congress, the draft of the constitutions of handicraft and consumers cooperatives, and the procedure for the assignment of the members of the preparation and election commission and the new members of the Central Council of the Peasants Cooperatives Union were presented to the participants of the plenum.

The participants gave their votes and the documents pertaining to these decisions were unanimously approved by the participants.

The representatives of the Unions of Peasants Cooperatives of the Provinces of Balkh, Herat, Ghazni, Qonduz, Jowzjan as well as the representative of the handicraft and consumers cooperative of the Ministry of Commerce in their speeches expressed their firm support and cooperation for the various aspects of the proposals set forth in the main report of the plenum.

REBEL GROUP 'CRUSHED' IN BADAKHSHAN PROVINCE

GF231757 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jun 82

[Text] According to a correspondent in Badakhshan Province in northern Afghanistan, a group of counterrevolutionaries who had been disturbing the peaceful life of citizens in (Maobarkuk) village, (Kohan) County, was crushed recently as a result of the heroic activities of security forces, revolution defenders and cooperation of the people. The source added that various Chinese- and U.S.-made weapons and a large amount of ammunition were seized from the killers and thieves.

MUJAHIDIN DESTROY FOUR TANKS, SIX VEHICLES

GF241815 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 20 Jun 82 p 8

[Excerpts] London, 19 Jun (AAP) -- The Afghan mujahidin during an attack destroyed four Soviet tanks and six military vehicles with their crews in Afghanistan. Reports received from across the border indicate that mujahidin station in Qarah Bagh in Ghazni Province recently attacked an Afghan Government military convoy on its way from Kabul to Qandahar via the region where the mujahidin had their positions.

The mujahidin received information that the convoy of 100 vehicles was moving from Kabul to Qandahar and included tanks, troop carriers and heavy guns. The convoy had 2,200 soldiers travelling with it. Two Soviet tanks were destroyed by land mines, two others by rocket launchers, and six other military vehicles were destroyed by mujahidin fire. The battle continued till 1600 local time on 19 June. The mujahidin withdrew when their ammunition supplies were exhausted. The road was covered with dead soldiers as far as the eye could see.

ERSHAD COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION

BK231131 Hong Kong AFP in English 0729 GMT 23 Jun 82

[Text] Dacca, 23 Jun (AFP) -- Bangladesh's military ruler, Lt Gen Ershad, indicated today an early improvement of the country's relations with the Soviet Union.

The general, who returned home this morning from New York after attending the disarmament session of the UN General Assembly, told newsmen that while he was there he had fruitful discussions with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko.

He expressed the hope these discussions would help "remove the little misunderstanding which existed in the relations" between Moscow and Dacca.

Gen Ershad said that, during their meeting, Mr Gromyko had extended an invitation to Bangladesh Foreign Minister Shamsul Doha to visit the Soviet Union.

On the present state of Bangladesh's relations with the Soviet Union, which had provided active support and assistance to Dacca during and after the war of liberation of 1971, Gen Ershad said: "I thought there was some misunderstanding (between the two countries)."

Mr Doha, who was sitting next to the general, hastened to add: "Our relations (with Moscow) were not as they ought to have been."

Referring to his address at the disarmament session of the United Nations last Thursday, Gen Ershad said that he had proposed the imposition of new taxes on arms sale and that the revenue thus earned should be used for humanitarian and development projects in underdeveloped and developing countries.

He had also proposed a drastic cut in the military expenditures of the developed countries and said that a part of this money should be diverted to help nations that were fighting hard against poverty, hunger and disease.

The general, who came to power 3 months ago through a bloodless coup, dispelled rumours against his military regime. He said there was complete peace and stability in the country.

"The very fact that nothing happened during my absence for 10 days from the country has proved that rumours both at home and abroad about instability and the possibility of a counter-coup are unfounded," he added.

ATTEMPT ON MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER'S LIFE

BK240900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jun 82

[Text] News agencies report that an attempt on the life of Maharashtra Chief Minister Baba Saheb Bhosle was made last night in Bombay. Quoting authoritative sources, the agencies said that the attempt was made while Bhosle was returning after attending a meeting in Dadar in central Bombay. The chief minister was reported to have been fired at by a person from close range. The chief minister escaped unhurt.

TARA SINGH VOTED HARYANA ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

BK240842 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Jun 82

[Text] Haryana Chief Minister Bhajan Lal has won the first trial of strength on the floor of the state assembly today when Tara Singh was elected speaker of the newly constituted house. Forty-eight votes were cast in favor of Tara Singh and 40 against. The pro tempore speaker, Ishwar Singh, did not cast his vote. The house has an effective strength of 89 members. The motion proposing the name of Tara Singh for speakership was moved by Bhajan Lal and seconded by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shamsher Singh Surjewala. The house later elected another Congress-I member, Ved Pal, as its deputy speaker. The voting was again 48 in favor and 40 against.

AGREEMENT SIGNED ON WHEAT SUPPLY TO BANGLADESH

BK041629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jun 82

[Text] India will supply 100,000 tons of wheat to Bangladesh. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi today between Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh and Bangladesh Food Adviser Air Vice Marshal A.G. Mahmood.

Under the agreement, wheat will be supplied to Bangladesh between next month and September. Bangladesh will return it within 2 and 1/2 years.

BRIEFS

DAIRY EQUIPMENT TO USSR -- New Delhi, 9 Jun (AFP) -- India is to supply the Soviet Union dairy equipment worth 2.7 million roubles (about \$300,000) under a contract signed by the Soviet Technopromimport and the Indian firm Valcan-Laval. The equipment will cover milk pasteurisation, hermetic milk-separators and stainless steel tanks of 8,000 litres capacity. A. Foteev of the Soviet trade representation here said the Soviet Union was also interested in other Indian products, particularly apple-juice processing plants. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1423 GMT 9 Jun 82 BK]

APRIL-MAY OIL PRODUCTION -- Oil production in the country during April and May last showed a 30-percent increase over the production during the same period last year. The total production from both onshore and offshore fields during these months was 3.20 million tons as against 2.47 million tons during the corresponding period last year. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Jun 82 BK]

PLANES WITH AID FOR PLO LEAVE FOR DAMASCUS

BK230643 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 23 Jun 82

[Text] Two more C-130 planes left Islamabad for Damascus this morning carrying relief goods for Palestinians in Lebanon. The relief goods include medicine, tents and tea.

As already reported, Pakistani C-130's had arrived in Damascus 2 days ago with relief goods, which were handed over to the Palestine Liberation Organization representative in Damascus.

DAWN EDITORIALIZES ON STUDENT POLITICS

GF181100 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Jun 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Student Indiscipline & Campus Environment"]

[Text] A high-level educational committee is reported to have recommended an "absolute" ban on political activities in the universities.

Since the committee is headed by the chairman of the university grants commission, its recommendation is unlikely to be ignored. It has been reported that the committee in its recent meeting in Islamabad discussed political intervention at the campuses and took a serious view of the overall situation. Members of the committee are also said to have agreed to devise some measures to discourage the rising trend of violence among students.

Coming in the wake of an unusually bloody wave of violence among university students, particularly in Karachi, the proposed ban would widely be deemed legitimate. Since political activities as such are banned in the country, the proposed restrictions on political activities in the universities would logically be taken to refer to students' organisations and elections to their unions. Political infiltration through students' organisations is well established and, in some cases, political figures have been directly involved. As a consequence, the students have been deeply polarised and elections to unions have often led to violence.

Fire-arms, even Sten guns, were recovered from students in the recent past. Two students died of bullet wounds in clashes connected with elections to the students' union at the University of Karachi in December last. At times, the authorities fail to curb the excesses of student activism on the campuses. This enhances frustration among the majority of students who are immobilised in the face of organized gangsterism.

Disorder at the campuses naturally disrupts the academic atmosphere and schedules. Viewed in this perspective, the proposed ban may seem to be the easy out of the situation created by the students' political involvement. But this kind of solution may not produce order and tranquillity. It will drive political activism underground.

The high-level educational committee should have a lot more to ponder than immediate measures to curb expressions of the students' political involvement.

It should be realised that the present situation is itself the result of a series of misjudgments concerning the imperatives of a good academic environment. Students would not take to lethal weapons or become tools in the hands of disruptive forces all of a sudden.

They have fallen prey to such crude manipulation largely because the academic environment at the campuses has been stifled and the teachers have been deprived of their traditional leadership role. Constant bureaucratisation of the universities and lack of genuine academic and intellectual freedom at the campuses have undermined the very purpose and meaning of higher education in our country.

Post-graduate students do not have to be treated like children. They are expected to be responsible citizens, conscious of the great responsibilities that the educated have to bear in an under-developed, largely illiterate society. Postgraduate students encounter their chosen disciplines at a level that calls for independent thinking and a spirit of inquiry. They should be capable of forming their own opinions and judgments. If universities had truly grown into seats of learning and inquiry, the present state of moral and educational decay would not have been possible.

Hence, irrespective of the short-term measures they find necessary to deal with immediate problems, the authorities would do well to contemplate the seed issues and try to restore the dignity and high idealism that belong to seats of higher learning.

A major cause of the decline of the university is its lack of autonomy. Unfortunately, even small affairs that pertain to day-to-day working are controlled by the officialdom. The ills born of bureaucratic control are sought to be remedied by further control.

In the process, the teaching staff has been reduced to the status of minor functionaries. Made to behave like ordinary government servants, the teachers themselves tend to become careerists and usually abdicate their traditional role. Their capacity to influence the conduct of their pupils has declined catastrophically.

It is a consequence of excessive bureaucratic control that even normal extracurricular activities have died out at the campus. Students are not supposed to participate in literary, cultural and academic activities that would nurse their mental and creative abilities. In our circumstances, the university should be expected to play a social role and invest the considerable talent that it technically harbours in problem solving efforts. This, obviously, is not feasible as long as the university is conceived as a mere dispenser of degrees -- or, worse, a house of correction for way-ward youth.

We should have more confidence in our teachers and also the grownup students who, if not emotionally and intellectually shackled, will usually opt for a constructive and progressive role. It is not known if the high-level educational committee has deliberated on these basic questions. But it is easy to see that deteriorating academic standards and the increasing trend of violence among students are to a large extent the result of the manner in which our universities are managed.

BRIEFS

UNDP TECHNICAL AID -- The UNDP is to provide technical aid worth \$118 million to Pakistan during the 1982-86 period. This is more than double the amount approved for the 1977-81 period. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jun 82 BK]

IFAD LOAN -- The International Fund for Agricultural Development in Rome has given a loan of \$12 million to Pakistan for its irrigation projects. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 19 Jun 82 BK]

SRI LANKASRI LANKANS TO BE REPATRIATED FROM LEBANON

BK191503 Hong Kong AFP in English 0817 GMT 19 Jun 82

[Text] Colombo, June 19 (AFP) -- Sri Lanka has made arrangements with Britain for the repatriation of any Sri Lankan nationals stranded in Lebanon after the Israeli invasion, Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed has said.

Press reports here today said that the Sri Lanka Foreign Ministry was making discreet inquiries to ascertain whether any of the Sri Lankans who had reportedly fallen into Israeli hands were northern secessionists undergoing terrorist training with the Palestinians.

The SUN newspaper said that the inquiries followed the news, received here on Thursday night, that a group of Sri Lankans were among those taken prisoner by the Israelis when they swooped on Palestinian bases in Lebanon.

Foreign press reports said that the Israeli army had confirmed that Sri Lankans were among the several nationalities of people captured with the 6,000 guerrillas.

JAYEWARDENE SPEAKS ON TRADE UNION RIGHTS

BK221126 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jun 82

[Text] There is complete freedom in the country now for trade unions to engage in legitimate activities. The right to topple a government lies in the hands of the people and not trade unions. President Jayewardene said that the government is answerable not to trade unions but to the 14 million people of the country.

The president was addressing the 9th anniversary of the Post and Telecommunications Union at the Ramakrishna Hall in Colombo yesterday.

Recalling a strike staged 2 years ago, Jayewardene noted that workers who participated in that strike were given ample time to return to work. Those who did not report lost their job. The government did not dismiss them. This same principle will be applied in the event of any future work stoppages.

The president took the opportunity to remind that independent trade union movements were not found in communist countries. He singled out Poland as an example adding that even political freedom and press freedom were not enjoyed by the people in these countries.

PUBLICITY CHIEF ON IRAQI WITHDRAWAL, PROPOSALS

LD241154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jun 82

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, Mr Kamal Gharazi, the official in charge of the War Publicity Staff and IRNA supervisor, this morning to a gathering of domestic and foreign reporters explained Iran's positions toward Saddam's new propaganda gestures. Referring to the political and propaganda conspiracies of imperialism and its servants in the region, he regarded the meeting between Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Begin, Israel's invasion of south Lebanon, the coordination of the activities of the United States, Israel and Egypt in favor of Iraq, the assistance of the reactionary regimes of the region and the preventing of the change of the Nonaligned Conference venue as some of the conspiratorial activities which have been engaged in to save Saddam.

Concerning the announcement of the withdrawal by Saddam and the new gesture of the Iraqi Government, Mr Gharazi said: This announcement is a propaganda maneuver in order to put us in a position to refrain from continuing the war so that we cannot gain our legitimate rights. Referring to the fact that Iran had previously planned to start an extensive offensive in the west of the country, he said: This withdrawal is a tactical withdrawal. In order to prevent the further annihilation of his forces, Saddam has started this withdrawal. His claims about loving peace are also pure lies. If Saddam had the power to destroy our cities and forces he would not hesitate to do so.

He said: The attempts of Saddam and his supporters, who are the servants of the superpowers in the region, are directed at saving him by holding the Nonaligned Conference in Baghdad and gaining some position for Saddam.

After his remarks, Mr Gharazi answered the questions of the domestic and foreign reporters about the war imposed by Iraq and the aggressive war of the Zionists in south Lebanon.

Concerning the coordination of the propaganda of the Islamic revolution in south Lebanon [as heard], he said: A War Publicity Staff office has been set up in that region and the propaganda work will be coordinated.

In answer to a question concerning where the Iranian volunteers have been stationed, he said: Our forces are mainly in the stage of familiarizing themselves, choosing tactics and investigation.

At the end of today's interview, the director of the War Publicity Staff put some photographs of Qasr-e Shirin, Hoveyzeh and Hamid garrison, which have been destroyed by the Iraqi forces, at the disposal of the reporters.

NVOI: U.S. STARTED WAR; GUARDS SLANDER USSR

TA242053 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 24 Jun 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Iran and Iraq Are the Victims of the Plots of World-Devouring America"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: As you are aware Iraq announced that it has begun the withdrawal of its armed forces from our homeland's territory. Both our combatant nation and the Iraqi nation hope that fratricide and bloodshed will end and that such an event will never be repeated.

Without doubt the certain conclusion that both our nations draw from this imposed war is that both the Iraqi and Iranian nations have been the victims of the plots of world-devouring U.S. imperialism and its agents in the region.

This is precisely the fact although some of the officials of the Guards Corps are striving to make our homeland's people believe that allegedly it was the Soviet Union which instigated Iraq to wage war against Iran. However, as much as such individuals wish to hurl a flood of accusations and slanders at others in the pages of our country's newspapers, including the SOBH-E AZADEGAN -- in the very style of imperialist mass media -- nothing will alter the facts.

The fact is that with the overthrow of the annihilated shah's despised regime world-devouring America lost its main base in the Near East. The fact is that in order to make up for this loss the U.S. administration decided to surround south Iran in a semicircle with a chain of the Pentagon's military bases stretching from Israel to Saudi Arabia, Oman and Pakistan. It was particularly for this reason that U.S. espionage organizations, which are specialists in international provocations, unleashed such an imposed war.

On the eve of the battle operations, the United States and the CIA disseminated widespread false reports about Iran's Armed Forces and the lack of fighting capacity the Iranian nation would have in a military battle, and step by step provoked the Iraqi regime in this imposed war. All means and facilities were used to assure Iraq's leadership that it will be given unconditional support, including financial support, by Saudi Arabia and some of the governments of the Persian Gulf region.

On the basis of the calculation that it will draw Iraq as well into the orbit of so-called moderate countries that are militarily and economically dependent on the United States, Washington started a two-sided game. On the one hand it widened differences among Arab states and consequently weakened the power of the Arabs against the Israeli aggressors, and on the other it set some of the region's Arab countries against our Islamic Republic and actually exposed our homeland to a military threat and armed aggression.

Of course, irresponsible statements by some individuals in our country and the tumult about the export of the revolution to other countries and similar remarks were widely exploited by the region's reactionaries and the United States. Thus, the American plotters were able to achieve their conspiratorial plans.

The imposed war started and America and its allies were overjoyed at the sight of thousands of old and young Iranians and Iraqis being killed every day. Tens of thousands were killed in this war. A great number of institutions, residential areas and in some instances entire cities were leveled to the ground.

Oil exploration and production in both countries reached its lowest level; this was and remains their only main source of income. The daily military expenditure of each of the countries involved in the war was about \$200 million whereas we are two neighboring countries and the nations of both countries could and must live in peace and friendship, in particular when both nations have identical positions and interests regarding the main international issues and the situation in the region.

Both the Iranian and Iraqi nations, in particular, support the struggles of the Arabs and Palestinians against the aggressor Israel and the ally of world-devouring America.

Without doubt the self-sacrifice, resistance and the crushing blows which the Iraqi Army confronted in our homeland played a valuable role in Baghdad's decision to withdraw its armed forces from our homeland's territory. Our ever-on-the-scene nation, having resolute faith that the perpetuation of the Iranian revolution is conditional on the realization of its age-old objectives, has risen in defending and safeguarding the national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of its homeland.

Grave tasks face our nation and the Iraqi nation in connection with rebuilding the foundation of life, the reconstruction of the war damages and the struggle against imperialism and Zionism. Without doubt putting an end to the war can aid in resolving these problems in the best possible manner.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 954

LD241736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jun 82

[Communique No 954 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The situation on the battlefronts during the past 24 hours was as follows: On the country's southern fronts, our mighty, victorious combatants safeguarded their defensive positions and fortifications while vigilantly controlling enemy movements and operations. They increasingly strengthened and stabilized their defensive positions while using retaliatory fire to neutralize the Saddamist forces' activities.

The gendarmerie combatants deployed in the Abadan region opened fire on enemy positions on the opposite bank of the Shatt al-'Arab, destroying one ammunition dump and four concrete bunkers belonging to the Iraqi troops.

Yesterday the Khorramshahr region and some Abadan residential areas and oil installations were the targets of the enemy's long-range artillery. As a result, 9 of our compatriots were martyred and 30 were wounded.

During the past 24 hours, Islam's combatant forces returned enemy fire and destroyed three enemy ammunition dumps, one mortar launcher and one assembly point belonging to the Iraqi troops in the Tutman and Biarreh regions in Iraq. Nine Saddamist troops were either killed or wounded.

During an exchange of fire on the Meymak and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts, our forces fired on the aggressive Saddamist army's deployment points and set one ammunition dump, one vehicle and a number of trenches and their servicemen on fire. During the same operation one enemy motor pool was also greatly damaged.

Sporadic exchange of fire took place in the Qasr-e Shirin and Ilam regions; our Islamic forces maintained their firepower superiority.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRANIAN EMBASSY IN SUDAN ORDERED CLOSED

LD241108 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jun 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, following the illegal closure of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Sudan by the Sudanese authorities, the charge d'affaires of our country to Sudan arrived back in Tehran yesterday.

According to this report, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry requested the diplomatic mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Sudan to leave Sudan as soon as possible.

Following this request, members of the Sudanese Muslim student union staged a demonstration to protest against the hostile action taken by the Sudanese regime. During this demonstration, members of the Sudanese Muslim student union paid tribute and hailed the Islamic Republic of Iran for sending its troops to Lebanon and declared their support for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On his departure from Sudan, our country's charge d'affaires was seen off by a number of Sudanese Muslim students.

TEHRAN CALLS FOR ARAB OIL EMBARGO AGAINST WEST

GF201527 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 19 Jun 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Using Oil as a Weapon Against the Regime Occupying Jerusalem"]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: The Zionist regime's attack on the defenseless Muslim Palestinian people began at the same time that the OPEC conference convened in Vienna, the capital of Austria, in October 1973. This action infuriated the Arab peoples at the time, and after becoming aware of the fact that Zionism was being supported by the usurper America and its European allies, the representatives of Arab countries decided to use oil as a political and economic weapon.

Taking into view the importance of using oil as a political weapon, why are Arab oil-producing countries not moving to use oil as a weapon against Zionism, preferring instead to make anti-Zionist statements, at a time when the occupationist Zionist regime has resorted to an unprecedented onslaught and genocide in Lebanon, with the support of its European allies, including the United States? The Arab world gained valuable experience from the oil embargo it imposed in 1973. The Arab states can again move to use the same weapon in order to counter the attacks organized by the Zionists.

By adopting a resolute stand with regard to imposing an oil embargo as a weapon, the oil-producing Arab countries can attain a position whereby they can deal heavy blows on international oppressors and murderous Zionism, headed by the usurper United States.

Meanwhile, in addition to the oil embargo, the Islamic and the Arab worlds can use other weapons to deal heavy blows on international oppressors and Zionism -- weapons such as the imposition of an embargo on Western products and the withdrawal of Arab assets from European banks. As has already been stated by Prime Minister Mir-Moseyn Musavi, there is absolutely no reason why an oil embargo should not be imposed against the usurper America. The unity of the Muslims in the region can be described as the most important and serious requirement for using the oil weapon against the supporters of Zionism and oppressors and for countering and repelling the onslaught by the regime that has been occupying Jerusalem.

Those who give assurances that the Arabs do not intend to impose an oil embargo against the United States and Europe should be asked whether this is not in the direction of what is established by the United States and Zionism in connection with the status of the regime occupying Jerusalem. [sentence as heard] Undoubtedly the current developments will expose the true identities of those who have secret relations with Zionism -- relations which sometimes come into the limelight unintentionally. It is obvious that our world is one where experience is gained and therefore the character of everyone, every trend and every group will eventually become known.

CLANDESTINE ON CONFISCATION OF IRANIAN PROPERTY

GF221209 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, the property of all the Iranians living abroad will be confiscated in Iran. The chief revolution prosecutor of Khomeyni's regime, referring to this illegal issue, reasons that all Iranians living abroad are related to the former Government of Iran and there is no reason why they should benefit from the property they have left behind. Mullah Musavi-Tabrizi has recommended that the Iranians return to Iran as soon as possible prior to confiscation of their property.

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